

# **ONEIDA COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NON-PLUMBING SANITATION SYSTEM (PRIVY)**

(Found in Section 13.27 of the Oneida County Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System)

## **I. LOCATION**

- A. Privy systems shall be located at a minimum horizontal distance of:
  - 1. 25 feet from dwellings
  - 2. 10 feet from all lot lines
  - 3. 25 feet from a slope 15% or greater
  - 4. 50 feet from water supply wells
  - 5. 75 feet from navigable waters and watercourses
  - 6. 3 feet above high ground water or bedrock (unless equipped with watertight vault)
  - 7. 25 feet from shoreland/wetland

## **II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS – COMM 91**

- A. All privy buildings should be fly tight and vermin proof.
- B. Privies should be provided with concrete floors and risers and the interior painted.
- C. Privies should be provided with a suitable approach, such as concrete, gravel, or cinder.
- D. The entire installation should be clean and sanitary. Freshly slaked lime or other equally effective disinfectant shall be used in the vault at frequent intervals. Floors, walls, seats and urinals should be scrubbed as often as possible. The vault should be cleaned out at proper intervals by a licensed septage hauler and the waste disposed of in accordance with NR 113.
- E. All windows, ventilators, and other openings should be screened with 16 mesh screening to prevent entrance of insects.

## **III. FOUNDATION AND VAULT REQUIREMENTS**

- A. The outer base of the privy should be banked with earth.
- B. Concrete or cement block foundation walls should extend 6 inches above the ground and 12 inches below the ground to prevent entrance by insects and vermin.
- C. The bottom of open pits shall be at least 3 feet above bedrock or high ground water levels.
- D. The storage chamber of a vault privy shall conform with the requirements of Comm 84.25 relating to holding tanks, and shall have a minimum storage capacity of 200 gallons.
- E. An exterior vermin-tight access opening for cleaning of the vault should be provided where a watertight vault has been installed.
- F. It is suggested that privy pits be excavated to a 5-foot depth and the pit provided with a wooden crib lining.

## **IV. PRIVY VENTILATION REQUIREMENTS**

- A. The privy should be provided with cross ventilation equal to two square feet of screened opening for each seat or urinal.
- B. Vaults should be vented with a pipe of at least 3 inches in diameter, which terminates at least 8 inches above the roof of the privy and is provided with an effective ventilating hood.

V. SUPERSTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Walls and ceilings should be completely covered with smooth plastic, galvanized metal, wood, or other suitable materials provided joints are properly sealed.
- B. Steel or masonry buildings are acceptable if properly constructed.

VI. ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- A. Privy doors should swing and be self-closing.
- B. Privy seats should be provided with hinged covers.